12/21/68

Dear Moo,

I was out kind of late last night and it is too early in the morning to turn on the noisy copier, so I am using this time for a brief account of what I will be sending you, either herewith, if I get the chance today, or in the next few days. I write because these things are pertinent to your current interests as we have discussed them.

First, I have the Benavides report on his interview with Mrs. Tarsikes. He knows her husband and the evaluation is "dependable". She is accredited as a very sharp observer of pictures, having helped her husband regularly in this and he is a photographer. Her description of the Oswald assistant she saw is in general consistent with others but there is an ethnic identification that could be inconsistent. There are some inconsistencies in the report as I recall it from a hasty reading at 2 a.m. If my recollection is correct, the Secret Service thought to expect footage of WWL TV, which is CBS, to have been shown on NBC in San Antonio. If it is certain Mrs. Tarsikes saw WOAI 11/22/63, then she should have been shown the WDSU footage, not a picture from WWL. If she is correct in her recollection, and difficult as it is to believe an ordinary person could have been this observant, she comes through to me as one who might, and she cannot find this person in the WDSU footage, which we have, then there is a case for believing that this footage was edited when the Feebies got it at the time of the assassination. Going along with this is what we do know, that the FBI used six stills in interviewing witnesses, but the agents regularly on the case refer to but three and the Commission seems to have gotten but three.

Now it happens I have a good friend at WOAI, a man who sent you the Minuteman-Shand material when I asked him to, rather his tapes of his interviews, for I sent you and him the documents. He is on radio, but I think he can arrange what we might want there, and I will phone him when I can and see if I can arrange for what we might want him to do. I also suggest that we should give copies of these documents to both ~~Bill Elder~~ and Bill Reed at WDSU and WWL. If I speak to you by phone before I make the copies, I'll discuss this with you. In my own meetings with them in the past I told them both to be alert to this and gave each her name. Each, I think, whether or not he gets interested, will appreciate this. ~~Ed Planer~~ Also, if this was NBC footage, I also know where there is 60 hours of it, having located it and turned it over to Sprague. It is in Washington, at the Library of Congress, not the National Archives. If necessary, I will examine that part myself, though at this point I'd rather not take the time. Further, if you want, when I am there perhaps I can fly to San Antonio and interview her, with the film to show her. Perhaps I can also have a copy of the WWL film then. I think we can arrange this, as I indicated to you. I simply did not want to force it earlier. Now, with this, I believe we can arrange it either when I am down there or I can by phone, for I have already discussed the conditions under which we can with Elder.

Parenthetically, this makes more important what we discussed last time I was there and much earlier, in February and March, that you do as I outlined in a memo with Life and the Zap film, getting slides of each from, each and every one. You also need this for other purposes. Please, if you do this, do it as I outlined of discuss it with me first. If only to prove she is wrong or we cannot prove she is right or wrong this must be checked out.

The second goodie is this: you will recall I have long felt that it did not make sense that Oswald did his picketing on three days only, and that all of the obfuscation on his literature was not just carelessness. You will

by now, I hope, have caught up on the memos and interviews I left with you when I returned home. In them I gave you evidence of other Oswald literature operations then on this dates, from Ampolsk, Cerniglia and Andrews. Here I have more such evidence, in the interviews by agents not regularly on the case and specifically in the interview of Loren Butler. From hasty examination, I seem to recall that the other two witnesses were not asked the time of the day and that in none of the three cases is the reason for seeking out the witness given. I think, when I am there next, we should or I should interview these people and those whose names I earlier gave you, of whom I recall the bus driver Huettman. Al, their names are in the documents Paul Hoch sent you on this and all relate to the Canal-Street distributions. Let me here point out that of all the places Oswald could have done his work, there must be some reason for his preference for that single street and area. I believe it is proximity to Bringuier, whose reaction was quite predictable. After thinking about the above, I ask you to recall or re-read my recommendation on Ampolsk. I now have clearer copies of that report. I asked the Archives to have their copy-machine operators jiggle around a little in making me new copies, and I will manipulate my own machine, to the end that I can supply you with blacker copies, or more legible ones that can be used as evidence if you so desire.

My most recent letter to the Department of Justice has been given a little more attention. I now have a response from Asst AG (criminal) Vinson telling me of my request for the suppressed Ferrie information that they are in a "periodic review" and "we expect this review will be completed in a short time". Please reread my suggestions and comments on CD75:301, where we have a copy of one of the suppressed documents. You will see, as I said, that there is no possible ground for withholding this except suppression. I think it will be telling in the trial, as I suggested in telling you what I will have in the Clark memo.

I will be sending a copy of this and the documents to Paul, and you can depend on him, if he has anything relevant he will let us know immediately.

I do not know the legalities or the requirements of the trial, but I would hope that this is pertinent under the Oswald and others part of the indictment.

Kf not enclosed herewith, within the next few days you will get a memomon my Geraci interview. The Feebies did a very good job on my tape recorder back in May. Louis' people could not then repair it, Ruben has sent it back to the factory twice, and it still does not work dependably. He has just sent it back for me again, for the damned thing stuck on the second cassette during the interview and on the third afterward. When I removed it from the machine it torn the tape. This is repairable. But it means that we cannot now transcribe these tapes. However, on the way back I did a memo. You'll never read my writing. I'll have Lil type it up. I do not think there is time to work out a fit between his knowledge and your present case, but I think he can and will be important and helpful in the future. There are, and I hope there will be interest in, other New Orleans aspects that, alas, have too long been ignored. I will have to get a new tape machine before I come down again, for this one cannot be depended on. One way this would be possible would be for you to find the money for the fare on one of my trips. This would give me enough to buy a new and decent machine. If you can do this, please let me know and I'll arrange for getting them machine. The newer models, with desireable features, like built-in battery eliminator, are not available in Frederick.

Sincerely,